

FISCAL NOTE

HB 2224 - SB 2205

January 27, 2004

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the State Board of Education to develop a uniform grading system to be used in grades 9-12. Such system shall assign a numeric range to each of the grades A, B, C, D, and F based on a 4.0 scale. All local education agencies (LEAs) would be required to use the standardized grading system when reporting student grades to the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC). Student's grades shall be reported for the purposes of determining eligibility for postsecondary financial assistance administered by TSAC (includes lottery funded scholarships) using the uniform grading system.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant

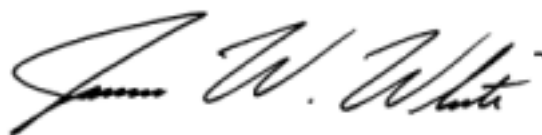
Estimate assumes:

- any cost to the State Board of Education associated with the development of a uniform grading system is estimated to be not significant and can be absorbed within the State Board's current budget.
- any cost to the LEAs to adopt such a grading system would be dependent up the complexity of the grading system adopted. However, it is estimated that any cost associated with the implementation of a uniform grading system is estimated to be not significant and can be handled within the normal course of developing and implementing school policy changes.

For information purposes, West Virginia adopted a simple uniform grading system. The state and LEAs incurred no cost linked with the uniform system. However, South Carolina has a complex uniform grading system which was costly to implement. South Carolina chose to mandate a more complex system leaving no local discretion, with the state absorbing all the cost associated with the mandate.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director